



Kipper's Collections!

Narwhal Tusk/Tooth

Kipper shares with you some of the amazing collections at the Scottish Fisheries Museum to help you learn a bit more about them. This time Kipper is excited about one of our items because it looks a Unicorn Horn! Over to Kipper!

This cool "Unicorn Horn" is actually a long tooth belonging to a creature called a narwhal, which is one of over 80 species of whale, dolphin, and porpoise. I have seen some species off the coast of Anstruther, where I live, have you ever seen any?

Narwhals live in the Arctic waters of Canada, Greenland, Norway and Russia. Most narwhals spend five months a year under sea ice, finding cracks in the ice to pop up for air.

"Unicorn of the sea" is a phrase used to describe a narwhal because of the long tooth that looks like it is coming out of its head, but not all narwhals have these! Mostly it is just the males...some even have two! This is why the narwhal is very interesting to people studying them.

I found the narwhal tooth in the whaling gallery in the Scottish Fisheries Museum alongside whale harpoons and whale tooth carvings. These are objects from years ago when people would hunt whales.

Nowadays, most countries no longer hunt whales, but some species are endangered. Narwhals are not one of these species, but they are near threatened. There are currently over 80,000 of these interesting creatures.

Thank you Kipper! We hope you liked learning about narwhals as much as we did!

